

VLR: 7-19-77
NRHP: 9-17-80

58-10

PH0502791

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 17 1977
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Eureka
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .2 mile NE of the intersection of state routes 615 and 709; east of State Route 709 at end of unimproved road which runs east from State Route 709; 1 mile west of U.S. Route 1

CITY, TOWN Baskerville VICINITY OF Fifth (W. C. Daniel)
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Mecklenburg CODE 117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. William E. Blalock
STREET & NUMBER Park Forest Farms, Inc.
CITY, TOWN Baskerville VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 23915

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mecklenburg County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Boydton STATE Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE 1958 -X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eureka, a large frame Italianate villa, is set in a pine grove amidst rolling Roanoke River farmlands near the Virginia-North Carolina border. Built in 1854-1859 by architect Jacob W. Holt for the Baskervill family, the house is two stories tall and three bays wide with a central, three-story tower, embellished with a third-story balcony, on the facade. A one-story porch stretching across the front of the building breaks out at the base of the tower and is returned around the corner as far as the rectangular projecting bays which mark the rear first-floor rooms. These laterally projecting rear rooms are further marked by pilastered demi-hexagonal bay windows.

The main entrance has a heavy frontispiece doorway with paneled pilasters and a heavy, flat cornice framing a double door with round-headed sidelights, a round-ended transom, and two circular corner windows. All of these arcuated forms are further embellished with delicate lead mullions. The windows in Eureka all have double-round-headed sash with louvred blinds.

Both the main block and the tower are covered with low hipped roofs, and the porch, bay window, tower, frontispiece and main block cornices are all liberally embellished with prominent pendants brackets. The whole is set on a low brick basement which is screened from view by the arcaded underpinning of the encircling porch.

Two small concrete block ells were added about ten years ago; these have been sheathed with weatherboards by the present owners.

The plan of Eureka is based upon the by-then-traditional central passage, double-pile, Georgian scheme which in fact constitutes the second-floor plan. On the first floor, however, the monotony of the four twenty-foot-square rooms is relieved by pushing each of the rear rooms several feet to the side, allowing space in the passage for the graceful curved stair and breaking up the exterior rectangular mass picturesquely, though somewhat stiffly.

The library (southwest room) is the least altered of the first-floor rooms. All of the woodwork--baseboards, architrave door and window frames and six-panel doors (three tall, Tudor-arched panels over three shorter ones)--is grained in imitation of white oak, except for the baseboards which are marbled. Surviving in the room are the original gilded window cornices and their draperies along with two book-cases and a desk built specifically for their present locations. The mantel here consists of recessed-panel pilasters supporting a deep plain shelf, bracketed entablature blocks and a double-lobed, recessed-panel frieze.

The parlor (northwest room) has been repainted. Its woodwork is similar to that in the library, and original stenciling survives in the mantel frieze. The curtains and window cornices for this room survive as well.

The two rear (east) rooms have plainer mantels with two less-prominent vertical panels in the pilasters and plain friezes. The woodwork in both rooms has been repainted; that in the north (bed) room was formerly rose colored, and that in the south (dining) room was formerly grained in imitation of walnut.

See Continuation Sheet #2

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1854-1859 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jacob Holt (1811-1880)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eureka, a large frame house built for the Baskervill family in 1854-1859, is a splendid, remarkably well-preserved product of the American vogue for Italianate villas in the 1850s. Its size, its exterior detailing, interior graining and marbledizing, and custom-made furniture are all exceptional among surviving Italianate houses in Virginia. Built by Jacob W. Holt, a Virginia-born architect who had previously practiced in North Carolina, it is one of a number of contemporary works by him in the Boydton area and is among the best of his buildings anywhere.

Baskervills first appeared in the Mecklenburg County (then Lunenburg County) records in 1752, when George Baskervill of York County, great-grandfather of the first owner of Eureka, purchased 267 acres of land there. The family prospered in the area, and in 1814 William R. Baskervill inherited 1,174 acres of family land from his father. Of this, he deeded 100 acres to his son Dr. Robert D. Baskervill in 1847 and nine years later made him a gift of another 527 acres. The present house was under construction on the latter parcel at that time.

Undertaking the work was Jacob W. Holt (1811-1880) who was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, and who later moved to Warren County, North Carolina, where he began his professional career. Holt apparently moved to the Boydton vicinity in the mid-1850s, and Eureka was among his first works there. While building the house he also remodeled the elder Baskervill's own house, Waverly. Other works of Holt's in Boydton include the Methodist Church and the remodeling of Boyd's Tavern (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). The mark of his hand is plainly visible in all of the buildings. The doorway of Boyd's Tavern, for instance, closely resembles that of Eureka. Invoices, receipts, and other papers relating to Holt's work at Eureka remain in Baskervill family hands.

Eureka was owned by the Baskervills until October 1974 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Blalock who have renovated it and now live there.

DU, VDS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baskervill Family Papers, Virginia Historical Society .
 Bishir, Catherine C., North Carolina Department of Archives and History, personal communications.
 Eureka, Auction Brochure, October 1974.
 Lunenburg County Deed Books 3, 4, 8.
 Mecklenburg County Deed Books; Land Books; Will Books.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

QUADRANGLE NAME South Hill, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 747180 4057500
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on E side of State Route 709, about 1200' E of intersection with State Route 615; thence extending about 500' SE, then about 350' S excluding modern outbuildings); thence extending about 850' W to E side of 709; thence extending about 700' NE along said side to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

July 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Judith Hill

Resubmitted 12-27-79

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUL 19 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Eureka, Mecklenburg County, Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1974 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 17 1977

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Eureka, Mecklenburg County, Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

7. DESCRIPTION

Graining and marbleizing like that in the library survive in an even better state of preservation in the passage, where they are also used on the open-string stair. The latter has a round banister and one turned baluster to a tread. The balusters are horizontally scrolled at the bottom. The spandrels are grained and the wall stringer is marbleized. The open stair to the basement descends underneath this stair.

Plain Greek Revival mantels are used in the second floor rooms. That over the parlor has black-and-gold marbleizing.

No early outbuildings survive, but one later log corn crib stands north of the house.

DU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

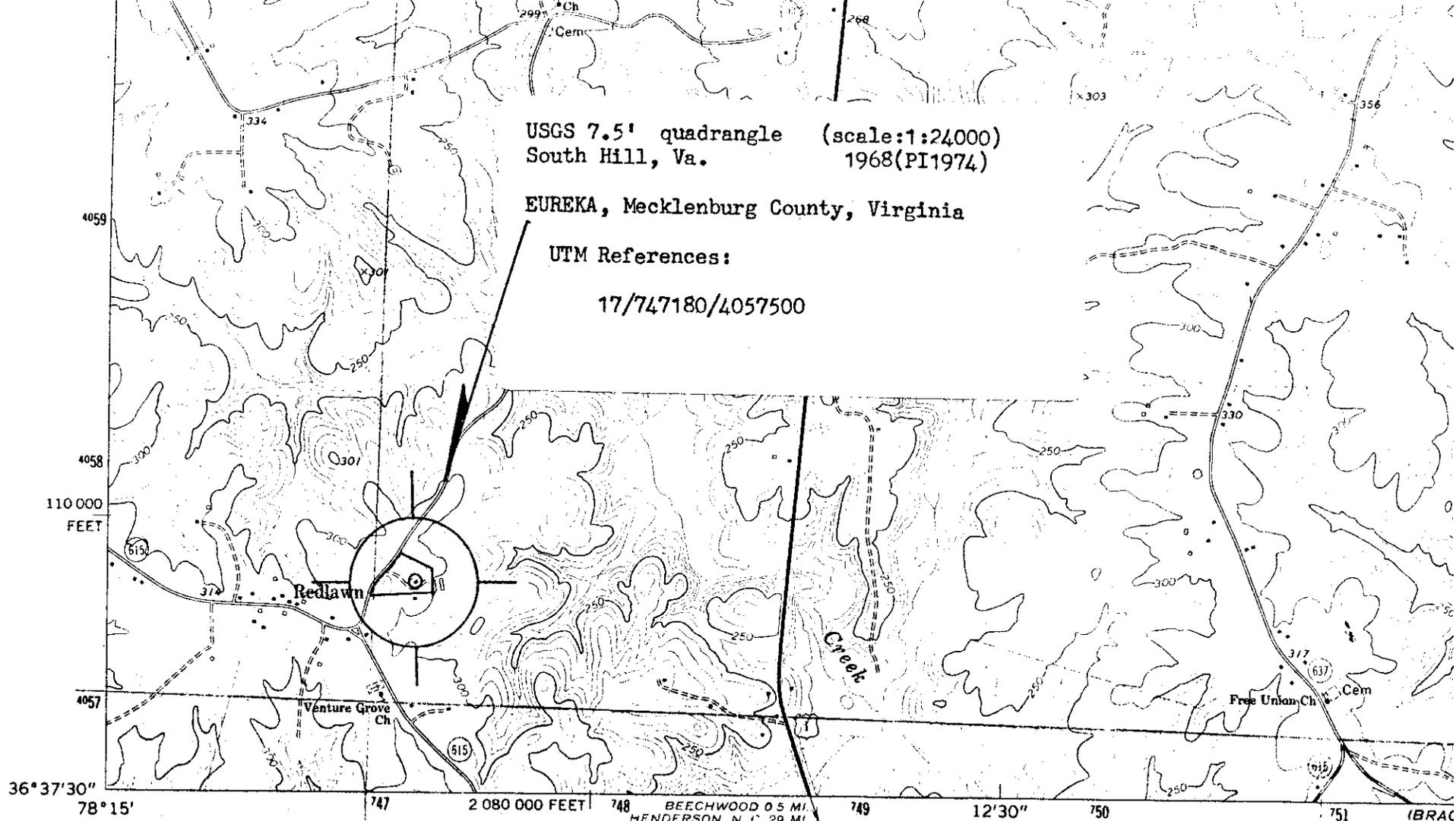
The acreage being nominated is composed of a tree-dotted yard and provides a suitable setting for this Italianate farmhouse. The boundaries are arbitrarily drawn to include the immediate yard of the house, the log corn crib north of the house, and the drive leading from the public road.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
South Hill, Va. 1968(PI1974)

EUREKA, Mecklenburg County, Virginia

UTM References:

17/747180/4057500



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

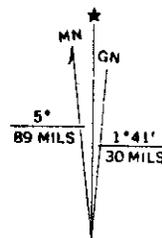
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

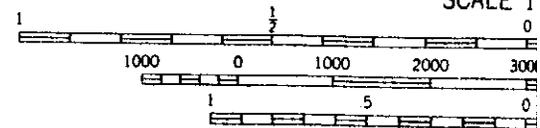
Map photoinspected 1974

No major culture or drainage changes observed

JOHN H. KERR DAM
5357 III SE



UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEODETIC VER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS